

application in light of these remarks, and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

I. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

In paragraph 2 of the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants propose amending claims 16-18 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. It is therefore asserted that, as amended, the claims are no longer indefinite. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner therefore withdraw the rejection of claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

II. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In paragraph 4 of the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,032,157 to Tamano et al. (hereinafter, Tamano). According to the Examiner, Tamano teaches (with respect to claim 1):

a method for manipulating a map; and displaying a first map in one area of a display; [d]isplaying a second map in a second area of the display, wherein the first map and the second map depict at least a portion of an identical geographic region; [m]aking an annotation on a first region of the first map; and [u]pdating the second map to display the annotation at a geographic region that corresponds to the first region of the first map.

(Official Action of March 26, 2003 at page 3.) (Tamano references removed.)

The Examiner provides that with respect to claim 5, Tamano "further discloses the claimed limitation of the first map being a vector map (column 1, lines 7-67, column

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4, lines 26-53 and column 6, lines 32-67)." Applicants disagree with the Examiner's position regarding claims 1 and 5.

The present invention as recited in amended claim 1 is directed to a method for manipulating a map, comprising: displaying a first map in one area of a display, wherein the first map is a vector map; displaying a second map in a second area of the display, wherein the first map and the second map depict at least a portion of an identical geographic region; making an annotation on a first region of the first map; and updating the second map to display the annotation at a geographic region that corresponds to the first region of the first map. Claim 15 similarly recites a computer readable medium containing instructions executable by a computer to manipulate a map, and claim 19 similarly recites an apparatus for manipulating a map, comprising: means for displaying a first map in one area of a display, wherein the first map is a vector map; means for displaying a second map in a second area of the display, wherein the first map and the second map depict at least a portion of an identical geographic region; means for making an annotation on a first region of the first map; and means for updating the second map to display the annotation at a geographic region that corresponds to the first region of the first map.

Anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) requires that each and every claim limitation be disclosed by the applied reference. Tamano does not teach each and every claim limitation of any of claims 1, 15 and 19 and therefore, as a matter of law, cannot anticipate any of these claims. That is, Tamano does not teach displaying a first map in one area of a display, wherein the first map is a vector map.

According to Tamano, in the prior art:

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if attribute information is to be retrieved on the basis of the shapes or positional relations of objects present on displayed geographic information, a vector map which represents the objects by using vectors is prepared in advance, and, in addition, a correspondence which links the vector map and the descriptive data (attribute information) to each other is input. For this reason, to retrieve attribute information by using a map, first of all, it is necessary to prepare a vector map and input a correspondence.

(Tamano at col. 1, lines 28-37.) (emphasis added.)

Tamano further provides that “[t]his work leads to the problems of consumed time and high cost.” (Id. at col. 1, lines 37-38.) Tamano then states that “[t]o solve these problems, it has been considered to use an image map instead of a vector map.” (Id. at col. 1, lines 39-40.) Throughout the patent description, Tamano, refers to the display of first image information and second image information. Tamano additionally provides that “map information is one example of image information.” (Col. 1, lines 48-50.) In essence, Tamano does not teach, disclose or suggest the step of displaying a first map in one area of a display wherein the first map is a vector map, and in fact, it specifically teaches away from this feature.

Since Tamano does not teach or suggest at least the step of displaying a first map in one area of a display wherein the first map is a vector map, as recited in former claim 5, the section 102(b) rejection of that claim is improper. Applicants have incorporated the recitations previously recited in former claim 5 into claims 1, 15 and 19, and therefore assert that those claims as amended are allowable for the same reason claim 5 is allowable. Applicants request the Examiner therefore withdraw the rejection of independent claims 1, 15, and 19 as well as claims 2-4 and 6-14, 16-18, and 20 as they depend on allowable subject matter as recited in the respective independent claims from which they directly or indirectly depend.

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III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention. Therefore, it is respectfully asserted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, he is invited to call the undersigned to expedite the prosecution and work out any such issue by telephone.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 1-4 and 6-20 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments to claims 1, 15 and 19 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were earlier claimed in the former claim 5. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner continue to dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

Applicants, therefore, request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

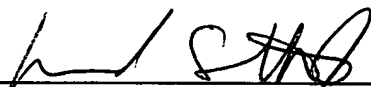
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by this amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made." Deletions appear as normal text surrounded by [] and additions appear as underlined text.

If any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this response, and not requested by attachment, such extension is hereby requested. If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or 1.17 that are not enclosed, including any fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge those fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 26, 2003

By: 
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 15-19 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method for manipulating a map, comprising:
displaying a first map in one area of a display, wherein the first map is a vector map;
displaying a second map in a second area of the display, wherein the first map and the second map depict at least a portion of an identical geographic region;
making an annotation on a first region of the first map; and
updating the second map to display the annotation at a geographic region that corresponds to the first region of the first map.

15. (Twice Amended) A computer readable medium containing instructions executable by a computer to manipulate a map, the method comprising:
displaying a first map in one area of a display, wherein the first map is a vector map;
displaying a second map in a second area of the display, wherein the first map and the second map depict at least a portion of an identical geographic region;
making an annotation on a first region of the first map; and

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updating the second map to display the annotation at a geographic region that corresponds to the first region of the first map.

16. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 15, [whose contents further enable] wherein the method further comprises enabling viewer referencing of at least the first map.

17. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 15, [whose contents further enable] wherein the method further comprises:

receiving a command to change a map view; and

receiving of a responsive display of the first map, the responsive display being representative of the user interaction.

18. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 15, [whose contents enable the] wherein the method further comprises receiving of a display of a second region on the second map, the second region being geographically substantially similar to the first region.

19. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for manipulating a map, comprising:
means for displaying a first map in one area of a display, wherein the first map is a vector map;

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means for displaying a second map in a second area of the display,
wherein the first map and the second map depict at least a portion of an identical
geographic region;

means for making an annotation on a first region of the first map; and

means for updating the second map to display the annotation at a
geographic region that corresponds to the first region of the first map.

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